

## WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC WORKS

DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

SUPERVISORS SIMPSON  
CONOVER  
DICKINSON  
FRASIER  
SOKOL  
VANSELOW  
WOOD  
MACDONALD

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

JEFFERY TENNYSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
REPRESENTING SARATOGA & NORTH CREEK RAILWAY:  
JUSTIN GONYO, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT  
KEVIN GERAGHTY, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD  
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY  
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD  
FRANK THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER  
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER  
BROCK  
LEGGETT  
MONTESI  
JULIE BUTLER, PURCHASING AGENT  
BETSY HENKEL, FISCAL MANGER, PUBLIC WORKS  
JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
THOM RANDALL *ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*  
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*  
SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

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**COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:**

SUPERVISOR MERLINO

*Please note, the following contains a summarization of the September 22, 2016 meeting of the Public Works Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2016/works/>*

Mr. Simpson called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 11:29 a.m.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mrs. Frasier and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the last Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Copies of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad and DPW Agendas were distributed to the Committee members, copies of same are on file with the meeting minutes.

Commencing the review of the Parks, Recreation & Railroad Agenda, privilege of the floor was extended to Justin Gonyo, *Saratoga & North Creek Railway (SNCR) General Superintendent*, to provide an update on SNCR operations. Mr. Gonyo apprised that a tour was being offered of the railroad facilities tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. for the members of the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Gonyo stated that the number of reservations had increased for the fall excursions; he noted this was typical for this time of year. He mentioned that they planned on placing more equipment in service on October 2<sup>nd</sup> in order to accommodate larger crowds. He advised that an additional 134 part-time staff would be hired for the Polar Express Train which commenced service on November 18<sup>th</sup> and was in its 6<sup>th</sup> year of operation; he noted it attracted around 30,000 riders during its duration.

Mr. Gonyo informed that they were progressing with the work study for the connection for rail service to Rensselaer, New York which they were working on with the IBI Group. He stated they had signed a non-disclosure agreement with Amtrak and would be meeting within the next few weeks with all of the parties concerned, including Canadian Pacific, following which it would be determined whether Norfolk Southern needed to be involved, as well.

Mr. Gonyo apprised that the 2017 Operating Plan included the unveiling of many new products which included the Ski Train during the first quarter of next year which would be re-branded as the Pullman Ski Train. He said the service would be unique, as it would depart on Friday from the Saratoga Station

and return on Sunday. He stated the train would be composed of three Pullman sleeping cars, a full length dome car and a dining car. He advised the ticket office in North Creek was being transformed into a rustic lodge which included a bar, pool tables, shuffle board, televisions and furnishings all of which would compliment the rustic theme. He added storage facilities would be available on site for skis and snowboards so guests would not have to keep them in their rooms. He stated the train would remain in North Creek for the weekend with the package including tickets to Gore Mountain; he noted that they would be encouraging guests to patronize the local businesses in North Creek, as no food would be served on the train all day Saturday and Sunday with the exception of the departure from North Creek on Sunday. He said another feature included was shuttle service to Gore Mountain and around North Creek.

Under the Pullman Ski Train umbrella, Mr. Gonyo informed that they would also be offering four special event trains which he outlined as follows: Valentines Day excursion on February 14<sup>th</sup> which would feature wine tasting paired with small plates of food; Presidents Day excursion on February 20<sup>th</sup> which would be a train ride during the day that would include a gondola package; Mardi Gras Beer Tasting on February 28<sup>th</sup> that would include local craft brews paired with small plates of food; and Ales and Rails on March 16<sup>th</sup> which would be a dinner train with a St. Patrick's Day theme.

Mr. Conover inquired whether Mr. Gonyo could provide statistics regarding the reach of the dinner trains and Polar Express at a future meeting and Mr. Gonyo replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Dickinson apprised he was pleased to hear about the re-branded Pullman Ski Train and stated he hoped it would be a success. He questioned the status of the freight operation from Tahawus and Mr. Gonyo responded that they were currently in possession of twenty loads of stone which they were awaiting clearance on to transport them to Massachusetts. He mentioned other than this the rail shipments from Tahawus had been rather sporadic; however, he noted, they were still working on developing a market for the freight portion of SNCR's operation.

Concluding the Agenda review, Mr. Tennyson distributed copies of photographs of the upgrades made to the Fish Hatchery Water Distribution system and the fairground demolition and he provided a brief summary of the work completed; *copies of the photos are on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the review of the DPW Agenda Mr. Tennyson presented the following requests:

- Page 1- Request to rescind Resolution No. 209 of 2016 which authorized an agreement with Grout Tech Inc. for grout pumping of various projects in Warren County due to the lack of response from Grout Tech Inc. in providing the required insurance documentation.
- Page 2- Request for a new contract with Town and County Bridge & Rail for grout pumping for various projects in Warren County pursuant to the terms and provisions of the specifications (WC 28-16) and proposal; for a term commencing upon execution by both parties and terminating March 31, 2017 with the possibility of two one-year extensions.

Motion was made by Ms. Wood, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the requests and the necessary resolutions were authorized for the October 21, 2016 Board meeting. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes.*

- Page 4- Request to amend the County Budget in the amount of \$5,518.58 to reflect the receipt of insurance recovery funds for repair of a 2009 Champion Sterling Dump Truck.

Motion was made by Mr. Conover, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Page 6- Request for transfer of funds between vbudget codes totaling \$100,000 for various road projects.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Conover and carried unanimously to approve the request and forward same to the Finance, Personnel & Higher Education Committee. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Moving on to the Referral/Pending Items section of the agenda, Mr. Tennyson apprised they were awaiting receipt of the grant funds for the household hazardous waste collections from the NYSDEC (*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*).

Continuing with the agenda review, Mr. Tennyson distributed photographs of some paving projects; *copies of the photos are on file with the minutes.*

Privilege of the floor was extended to Julie Butler, *Purchasing Agent*, to discuss the extension of the waste hauling, waste recycling and electronic recycling contracts. Mr. Butler advised that all of the municipalities had indicated they were willing to extend the current contracts. She proceeded to provide an overview of the process and answered questions posed by the Committee members.

Mr. Tennyson announced an executive session was necessary to discuss possible litigation. Ms. Braymer questioned what the cause of the possible litigation was and Mr. Tennyson responded that it pertained to a property concern.

Motion was made by Mr. Sokol, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously that executive session be declared pursuant to Section 105(d) of the Public Officers Law.

Executive session was held from 11:53 a.m. until 12:18 p.m; Mr. MacDonald exited the meeting during the executive session.

Upon reconvening Mr. Simpson announced no action was taken during the executive session.

Mr. Thomas related his concerns pertaining to the lack of site distance associated with the portion of County Route 3 in the Town of Stony Creek that bordered the Stony Creek Ranch Resort property and inquired whether a warning sign with flashing lights could be erected to prevent vehicle/pedestrian accidents from occurring there. Mr. Tennyson advised that he was aware of the site distance issues there and had discussed a possible solution with the property owner. He apprised in order for the work to be completed his engineering team felt would address the issue the property owner would need to return a signed copy of the access agreement.

A discussion ensued.

Mr. Simpson announced the Committee would take a brief recess before commencing the review of the Department of Public Works 2017 Budget Request.

The Committee recessed from 12:30 p.m. until 12:58 p.m.

Upon reconvening Mr. Simpson announced due to a lack of attendance the Chairman would serve to make a quorum of the Committee.

Returning the agenda review, Mr. Tennyson reviewed the 2017 Budget Requests for the Parks, Recreation & Railroad and DPW Divisions, copies of which are on file with the minutes.

Ms. Wood, Ms. Braymer and Mrs. Frasier exited the meeting during the review of the 2017 Budget Requests.

Concluding the agenda review, Mr. Tennyson pointed out the DPW Overtime, and Salt Usage Reports included in the agenda packet.

Due to a lack of a Committee quorum, Mr. Simpson announced the meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah McLenithan, Deputy Clerk of the Board